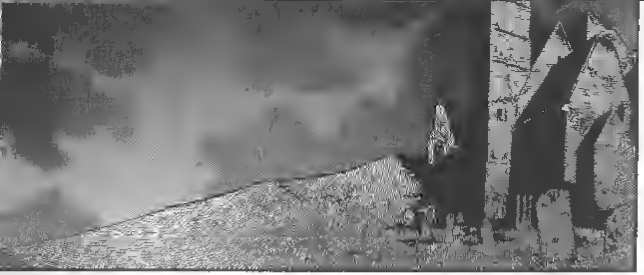
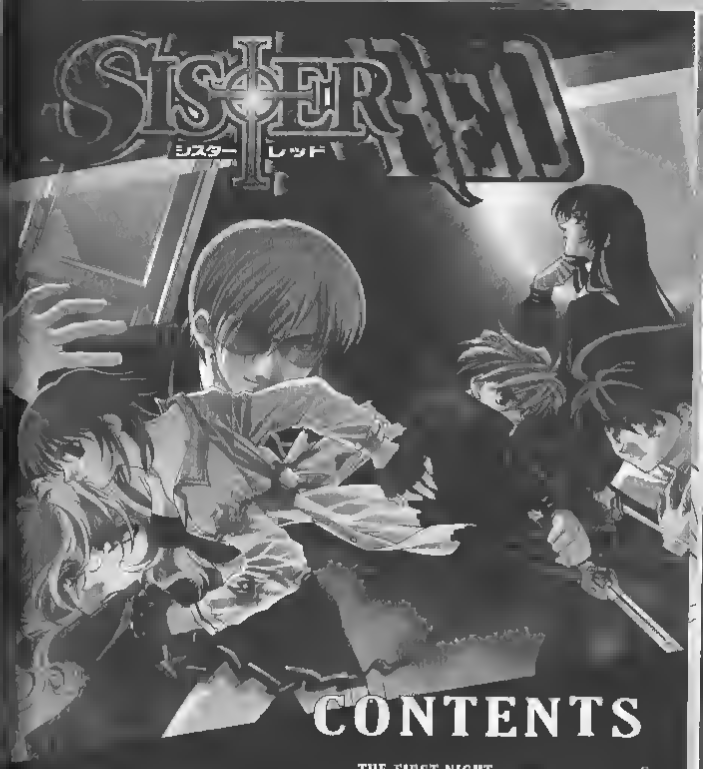
SISTER RED
シスター レッド
1
SHIZURU HAYASHIYA



SISTER RED

シスター レッド



CONTENTS

THE FIRST NIGHT 8
THE SECOND NIGHT 29
THE THIRD NIGHT 49
THE FOURTH NIGHT 69
THE FIFTH NIGHT 89
THE SIXTH NIGHT 111
THE SEVENTH NIGHT 129
THE EIGHTH NIGHT 149
THE NINTH NIGHT 165

I won't let you get away.
IT'S NO USE, ALICE.
I NEED YOU.
HEH..
HAHA..
YURI...
AHAHAHAH AHAHA!
SHE REALLY DID SOME DAMAGE.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
NO, I MEAN 'IN MY DEATH', THAT I'VE BEEN HURT LIKE THIS!
SHE GOT AWAY.
I'M SURPRISED
SISTERED
THE FIRST NIGHT

CLASH
GEEZ, DAD
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING.
GRRR!
IGNORE HIM, WE'RE IN A HURRY
THERE'S NO MORE SOUP! WHERE'S MY SOUP?!!!
SHUT UP!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO DRINK MY SOUP, DIDN'T I?
AH..
I...
DON'T THROW THE PAN LIKE THAT! IT'S DANGEROUS!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO SPEAK TO YOUR FATHER?!!!

Brought To You by:
Bloody Bear
(^)
=(^.^)=
"(")
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT, DAD?
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? YOU'RE LIKE THIS EVERY MORNING.
MAHITO!!
STOMP!!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP!!

ERIKA IS MY FATHER'S SISTER'S DAUGHTER SHE'S MY COUSIN AND OF MIXED BLOOD
IT'S TIME TO START CALLING HIM "DAD"
IT'S BEEN NINE YEARS.
I'M TRYING, BUT
EVEN THOUGH HE'S AN IDIOT?
...I'M SORRY
AND I KNOW THAT HE REALLY WANTS TO HEAR IT.
I MEAN, WE'RE FAMILY
HOW EMBARRASSING
UGH
I'M SORRY, MAHITO
WHAT?
HE'S GONNA HATE ME...
WHEN SHE WAS SIX, SHE LOST HER PARENTS AND CAME TO LIVE WITH US
YOU KNOW
DON'T SAY THAT!
SHE SEEMS BETTER NOW, BUT..

OUCH!
DA...
...DO YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE...
UNCLE?
BANG
JUST WAIT A SEC, DA.
HUH?
IF YOU WANT ME TO MAKE MORE, IT WON'T TAKE LONG...
UM...
MY NAME S MAHITO TAKEDA MY HOME LIFE IS A LITTLE HARD TO EXPLAIN
HEY, ERIKA,
YOU KNOW

WHOOSH
I WISH THERE WAS
SOMETHING I COULD DO.
FLIP
TEACHER?!
TOO BAD
THIS IS MS KUROZAKI THE HEAD COACH OF THE SCHOOL'S MARTIAL ART'S TEAM.
I THOUGHT THAT I COULD CATCH YOU OFF GUARD
YOU'RE GOOD, TAKEDA!
I'VE WANTED YOU ON THE TEAM SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
WONDERFUL REFLEXES! WHAT A WASTE YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING WITH THEM...
EVEN IF YOU DON'T JOIN THE MARTIAL ART'S TEAM, YOU SHOULD PLAY SOME SORT OF SPORT!
NO WAY!
BUT IT'S SUCH A PAIN!
HMPH!
LET'S GO, ERIKA.
WHISPER
I KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT YOUR COUSIN,
BUT SHE SHOULDN'T PREVENT YOU FROM DOING WHAT YOU WANT...
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG FOR THAT.
GRAB!
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT

I FEEL A VAGUE PRESSURE.
WHY AM I HERE?
A SCHOOL ..
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I FEEL THERE'S SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THIS PLACE.
THE DARK WILL COME AGAIN
I'LL CONCENTRATE NOW
HOLD YOUR BREATH
DON'T MAKE A SOUND
IT MUST BE MY IMAGINATION.
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR "THEM" TO SHOW UP

WHOOSH

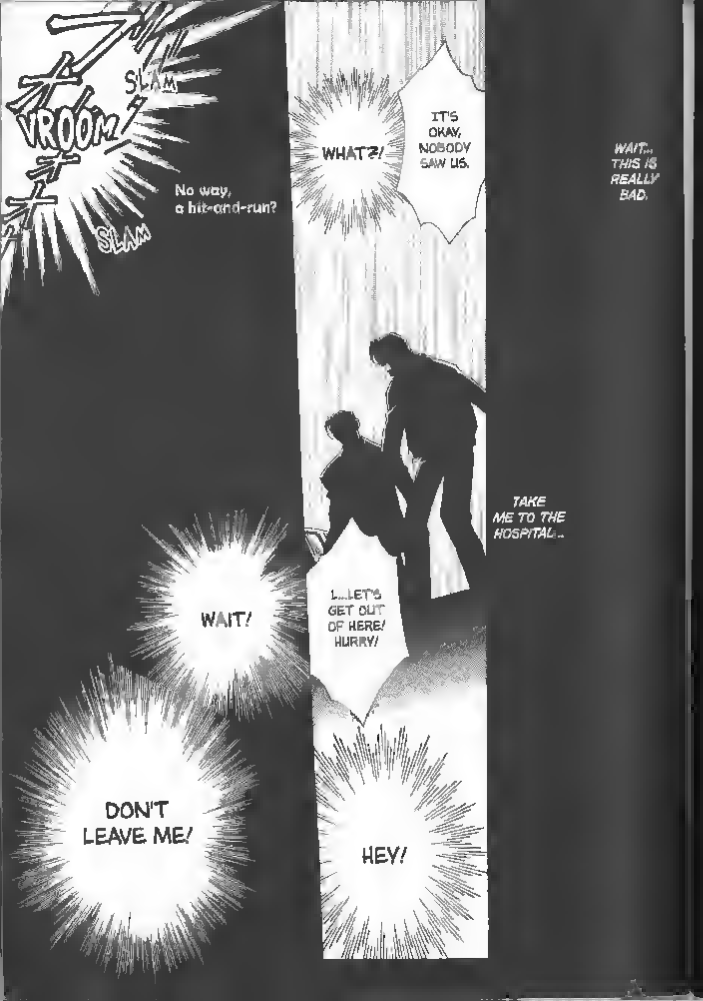
I REMEMBER
HAVING THIS FEELING BEFORE.
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER...
OH...
I FORGOT TO GET SOMETHING FOR DINNER
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, SO WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND REST?
OKAY?

IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE YOU WAIT SO LONG!
SILLY. YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME EARLIER!
BUT...
I'VE BEEN FEELING A LITTLE STRANGE SINCE LUNCH
YEAH,
WHAT'S WRONG, ERIKA? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD
SINCE LUNCH?
SOMEONE ALWAYS HAS TO WATCH HER
I THOUGHT I WOULD BE OKAY.
REALLY
I CAN'T EVER LEAVE ERIKA ALONE
ERIKA,
FROM HERE, YOU CAN GET HOME BY YOURSELF, RIGHT?
YES.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
SO...
"SHE SHOULDN'T KEEP YOU FROM DOING WHAT YOU WANT"

SOMEONE ALWAYS STEPPED IN AND STOOD UP FOR HER...
SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING
ERIKA WAITED THERE UNTIL DARK, AND CAUGHT A FEVER
I REMEMBER HOW ANGRY MY FATHER WAS
I JUST GOT SO ANGRY.
I WISH SHE'D JUST GO SOMEWHERE ELSE!
I HATE HAVING HER AROUND!
MY FATHER WAS EVEN ANGRIER AFTER THAT
STUPID!
I WAS ALWAYS THE ONE WHO SAVED HER
IT'S NOT FAIR!
SHE'S NOT FAIR!
AFTER THAT, IT SEEMED AS IF SHE GOT USED TO LIVING WITH US
ERIKA'S GOING TO BE YOUR LITTLE SISTER NOW, OKAY?
MY MOM WAS NO LONGER WITH US SO... DAD TRIED HIS BEST...
YOU'LL HAVE TO HELP HER OUT FROM NOW ON
WHEN ERIKA FIRST CAME TO OUR HOUSE...
SHE WAS ALWAYS AFRAID, ALWAYS CRYING
I STARTED TO GET ANNOYED WHENEVER SHE COWERED BEHIND ME.
BUT SHE OFTEN SEEMED AFRAID
THERE WAS THIS TIME WE WERE PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK... I LEFT HER THERE AND WENT HOME.
WHEN WAS IT?

HONK!
AH...
NO...
CRASH
THUD

EVEN IF I DON'T SAY IT OUT LOUD, I'M STILL THINKING IT...
WISHING SHE COULD JUST LET ME BE, IF EVEN FOR A SHORT WHILE.
JUST NOW...
IT KIND OF FELT LIKE I WAS BACK AT THAT TIME AGAIN
DRIP
TAP TAP TAP TAP
RAIN.
TIME FOR A SHORTCUT!
ALRIGHT, I'LL MAKE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR ERIKA TONIGHT!
SHOOM
WHEN I THINK BAD THOUGHTS LIKE THAT, I END UP PUNISHING MYSELF FOR IT LATER. AND ASIDE FROM WHAT I WAS THINKING..
POUR
PUNISHMENT
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
I REALLY LEFT HER ALONE.


VROOM
SLAM
SLAM
No way, a hit-and-run?
WHAT?!
IT'S OKAY, NOBODY SAW US.
WAIT... THIS IS REALLY BAD.
TAKE ME TO THE HOSPITAL...
L...LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! HURRY!
HEY!
WAIT!
DON'T LEAVE ME!

THAT WAS CARELESS OF ME
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EASILY GET OUT OF ITS WAY
HEY!
WE HIT HER!
A CAR...
WITH THE RAIN, I DIDN'T SEE IT

WHO IS THIS..
YOU KNOW...
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR.
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE.
I COULD FEEL MY HEART STRUGGLING TO BEAT
STEP
STEP STEP
MY BLOOD IS BEING WASHED AWAY BY THE RAIN
NO.. CAN THIS BE THE END?

SISTER RED

シスター レット

THE SECOND NIGHT

I DREAMT THAT I DIED...

IT'S REAL

U...UNCLE!!
MAHITO'S. ../
BAM
HUH?
I HAVE THE STRANGEST FEELING...
OH, ERIKA, YOU'RE UP EARLY
MAHITO...

WHAT?
HEY?

I TOLD YOU...
SHE JUST FAINTED FROM ANEMIA. RIGHT?

GASP
I'M SO LIGHTHEADED...
WHAT WAS THAT?
CREAK
AH..
UGH
MY ROOM...

YOU PASSED OUT..
AND WOULDN'T WAKE UP
YOU CAME HOME COVERED IN MUD
NO!
NOTHING
YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER?
YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS FOR TWO WHOLE DAYS
IT'S SO STRANGE.
YOU HAD BLOOD ALL OVER YOUR CLOTHES YET NOT A SCRATCH ON YOUR BODY

ACK!!
LET'S NOT GET VIOLENT NOW
WHO YOU CALLING WASHED UP?!
BUT
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE OKAY, MAHITO!
CLAP
EXCUSE ME.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? I'M A PLASTIC SURGEON!
IF YOU'RE WRONG I'LL BEAT YOU UP!
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S ALL IT WAS?
IF YOU'RE REALLY THAT WORRIED CALL A SPECIALIST
ALL I CAN DO IS HELP WASHED UP OLD WRESTLERS LIKE YOU
THE OTHER NIGHT
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

DRIP
HONK!
SO...
IT WASN'T A DREAM?

...YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE YOUR FAMILY WORRY SO MUCH.
DOCTOR O
AH!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU WOULD DO!
MUST'VE BEEN SOMEONE ELSE'S BLOOD! I WAS PROBABLY FIGHTING SOME HOOLIGAN!?
I WONDER WHY!
HEH...
WELL, WHATEVER HAPPENED...
HA
IT SEEMS AS IF YOUR DAUGHTER HAS HAD A RUN-IN WITH SOME PERVERT I'LL HAVE TO GIVE HER A FULL PHYSICAL
ESPECIALLY THAT DUMB FATHER OF YOURS.
NOW, NOW
IT'S OKAY... I'LL BE THE ONE EXAMINING HER...
WHOM
YOU!
DIRTY OLD MAN!

WHO...
IS REAL...
AND THIS...
HUH?
!
OR WHAT ARE YOU?
A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT.
MY NAME IS ALICE. I AM A MEDIAN..

THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.
IF IT WASN'T A DREAM, THEN I SHOULD BE DEAD

SO, WHICH PART OF IT WAS A DREAM.
AND WHAT WAS REAL?

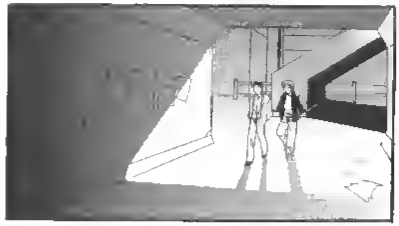
IT WAS ALL REAL.

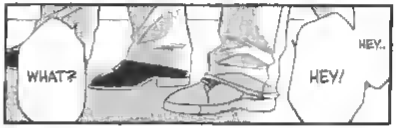
HALF OF IT...
...IS INSIDE YOUR BODY
THAT'S CRAZY...
NO..
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
STOP..
YOU WERE ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE A TEMPORARY CONTAINER FOR THE HEART
THIS ISN'T RIGHT.. THIS IS TOO BIZARRE
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
...HEART?
MY HEART?
NO NOT YOUR HEART THE NOBLEMAN'S DAUGHTER.
SCARLET'S HEART

A MEDIAN?
YES.. AND YOUR ASSUMP-TIONS ABOUT THE OTHER NIGHT ARE CORRECT.
YOU DIED.
BUT NOW YOU'RE BEING KEPT ALIVE.
BY THE HEART.

THE MIRROR BROKE.
I'M SORRY.
IT'S BEYOND HER COMPREHEN SION.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
ANYWAY, FOR NOW...
SLIP
SEARCH...
FLAP FLAP
AND REPORT...
BUT SCARLET ..
SHE IS TRYING TO FUSE WITH YOU... TO BE A PART OF YOU.
SHATTER
AAAAAA AAGH!
MAHITO?
THUD
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?
GACHA
MAHITO?!

BUT THAT SOUND... WHEN WE HIT HER.. LIKE BREAKING BONES/ LIKE HER BODY JUST... CRUSHED
WILL YOU SHUT UP!
WE FIXED THE CAR, SO THERE'S NO EVIDENCE LEFT
EVEN IF SHE DID DIE, WE'LL BE FINE.
!
THAT'S THE GIRL..
AAAGH.
OH NO...
SHH!
SOMEONE'S THERE!
WHAT'S WRONG?
WE HIT THE OTHER NIGHT!

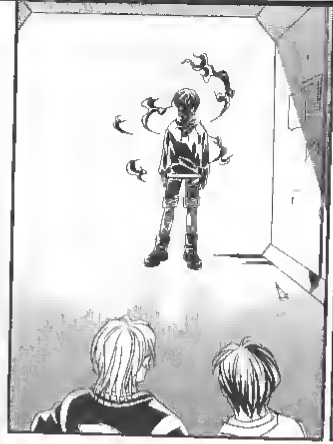



WHAT?
HEY..
HEY!

I TOLD YOU. WE'LL BE FINE.
WHAT NOW?
I WONDER IF SHE'S OKAY...

BUT STILL...
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS, AND THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY NEWS, RIGHT?

SCARLET'S PRESENCE DRAWS NIGH
IT WILL DRAW HIS ATTENTION.



THA-THUMP THA-THUMP THA-THUMP

UGH...
ALICE WAS ALWAYS GOOD AT HIDING.
BUT MY FRIENDS ARE EVERYWHERE. AND THEY KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR
AAAGH!
NOOOO!
HAVE MERCY!
PLEASE STOP!
OH,
BUT I DO.
OR AT LEAST FOR WHAT SHE

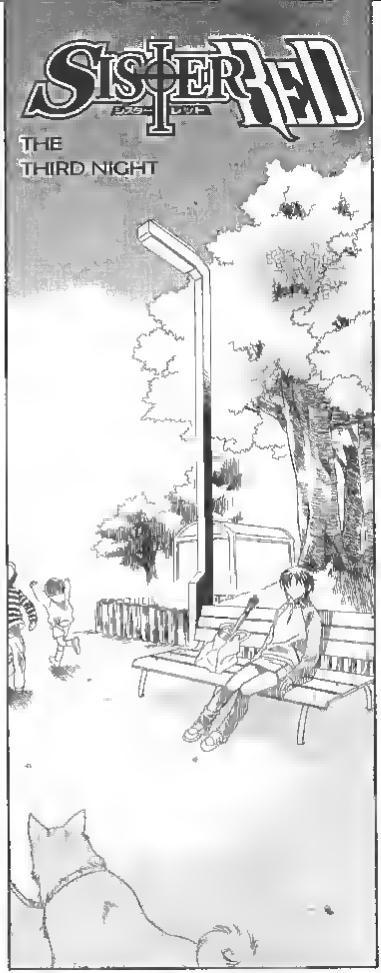
YUKI...
CLICK
WELL?
YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE
OH!
NICE!
YOU DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS WITH ALICE...
IT ALWAYS GIVES ME A HORRIBLE HEADACHE.
WELL...
THE LIGHT FROM THE MONITOR WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME.

THE THIRD NIGHT
LOOK, IT'S THAT GIRL FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL.
SHE'S WAVING AT US.
HMM?
WHAT'S UP, ERIKA?
OH..?
OH!
IT'S EMI!
YAY!
I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU, MAHITO!
I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO IF I WAS WRONG!
?

IF I BORROW THEIR POWER,
AND FOLLOW THE SCENT OF BLOOD
I'LL CATCH UP WITH HER EASILY.
LOOK for ALIVE

HEY!
HEY!
UM,
IS IT REALLY OKAY TO COME HERE IN OUR SCHOOL UNIFORMS?
IT'S NO PROBLEM! A FRIEND OF MINE OWNS THIS CLUB.
BUT...

THIS HAPPENED A FEW DAYS AGO.
IT'S ONLY BEEN HALF A YEAR SINCE I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL,
AND IT ALREADY BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
OH, EMI?
HM?
A TEAMMATE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL
WHO'S SHE?
So busy
IT'S SUCH A PAIN GOING BACK TO MIDDLE SCHOOL BESIDES, I'LL SEE YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL NEXT YEAR, RIGHT?
NO WAY!
YEP, THAT'S TRUE.
WAHAHA
I'VE GOT TO GET GOING I'M LATE FOR PRACTICE!
OKAY, WELL...
WOW, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
ACK, AND I ALMOST MADE IT TO THE BUS STOP...
IT SURE HAS! YOU SHOULD COME BY AND VISIT YOUR OLD TEAMMATES ONCE IN A WHILE!


SISTER RED
THE
THIRD NIGHT

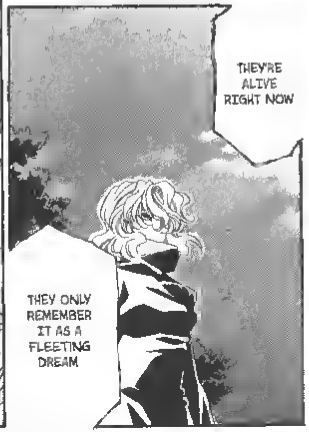
NO
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT..
WHAT'S WRONG ?
ARE YOU AFRAID?
THEN THERE'S NO PROBLEM
COME IN.

I DIDN'T SMELL DEATH
HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT?
THEY WON'T DIE.

DO YOU FEEL BETTER AFTER HEARING THIS?
YOU SAY THAT WITH SUCH SARCASM

EVEN IF THEY TALKED, NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THEM.
...

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SENSE IT TOO, YOU KNOW.
?


THEY'RE ALIVE RIGHT NOW
THEY ONLY REMEMBER IT AS A FLEETING DREAM

OR,
IS THIS ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR POWERS

WAS THIS STREETLIGHT ALWAYS SO BRIGHT?

FLASH
FLASH

IT'S WHEN ALL OF OUR SENSES BECOME UNHINDERED
THE NIGHT IS ALWAYS ON OUR SIDE.

ALICE?

I HOPE.
THOSE TWO THAT I ATTACKED ARE ALRIGHT
I SUPPOSE I AM BECOMING MORE AND MORE LIKE YOU KINDA

LOOK HOW...
WHEN I APPEAR TO YOU NOW, YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED ANYMORE
MAHITO,
YOU'VE BECOME A REAL MYSTERY TO ME
IN YOURS ?
WHAT?
NOT LETTING THE GRAVENESS OF THE MATTER TAKE HOLD OF YOU
YOU HAVE THE LIFE OF A MEDIAN, BUT YOU REMAIN CALM
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW
ANYWAY, I THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TEACH ME MORE ABOUT THESE "MEDIANS."
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO VAGUE
BUT...
WAIT!
IF I LET ALL THIS GET TO ME, I'D BE A NERVOUS WRECK BY NOW
WELL OF COURSE! IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS ALREADY
GEEZ

BEFORE YOU DIED THAT NIGHT OF THE ACCIDENT, YOUR MEMORY AND HATE FOR THEM WAS ENGRAVED IN YOUR MIND
SCARLET ACTED ON THAT HATE SHE DROVE YOU TO PUNISH THOSE WHO HAD TAKEN YOUR LIFE
HATE...
I DON'T KNOW WHY I DID THAT— IT WAS AS IF I HAD NO CONTROL.
AND I CAN BARELY REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED
NOT THE HEART ANYMORE NOW IT'S YOUR BLOOD
SCARLET..?
YOU MEAN, MY HEART?
JUST AS IT DOES THROUGH MINE.
SCARLET'S BLOOD IS STARTING TO FLOW THROUGH YOUR BODY.

HERE I GO!
ALMOST
WHACK
THIS ISN'T GOOD
NO WAY...
WHOOSH
HEY...
WHAT??

AND YOU MAY CONTINUE YOUR LIFE...
ANYWAY, IF SCARLET STAYS STILL, ALL WILL BE WELL...
YOU'LL KNOW WHEN HE COMES.
HEY!
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME!?
HEY...
SHE'S DISAPPEARING AGAIN...
AS A HUMAN
SIGH
I HATE THIS!
GRRR
KICK

SORRY! I GUESS I JUST HIT IT TOO HARD.
I'LL SO GET IT RIGHT NOW!
MAHITO! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU LATELY?
GEEZ
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A NICE HOME RUN..
I CAN'T EVEN PITCH IT ANYMORE
I THOUGHT I WAS HITTING IT TOO ★IGHTLY
I DON'T GET IT..
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
BUT WE'LL BE IN CLASS ♪
LUNCH IS ALMOST OVER.
I WONDER IF I CAN JUST TELL EVERYONE THAT I'M NOT FEELING WELL...

ALTHOUGH... IT'S JUST THE OPPOSITE

ALICE INSISTED ON ONE THING.
"MEDIANS ARE EVERYWHERE, AND THEY ARE NOWHERE.
THEY HIDE THEMSELVES IN THE PITS AND RECESSES OF THE HUMAN WORLD"
"IF YOU EVER ENCOUNTER ANOTHER MEDIAN BESIDES MYSELF..."

I DIDN'T REALIZE
!
OH! I SEE

WHAT A SCARY FACE
WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR LOOKING AT ME LIKE I'M YOUR ENEMY
A "MEDIAN"!

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I'D MEET ANOTHER ONE OF OUR KIND AT SCHOOL, OF ALL PLACES
YOU KNOW, INSTEAD OF PLAYING WITH HUMANS AS FRIENDS...
WE SHOULD TREAT THEM... AS TOYS.
HERE...
IS THIS WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
OH... THANKS...

OH?
SLAP
.....
!!

EH?
SEE YA...!
STOMP
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO CLASS
ARE YOU FINISHED?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
OR
ARE YOU JUST AFRAID OF STRANGERS?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF US..
SHOUKO MINOWA
THAT'S MY NAME.
I'M ALWAYS THERE AT NIGHT. COME BY SOMETIME
THERE'S A CLUB ALONG THE HIGHWAY. IT'S CALLED "THE BASEMENT."

YOU WERE ONLY JUST REBORN
WELCOME..
TO THE WORLD OF THE DARK
"KEEP QUIET AS BEST YOU CAN
IF YOU CAN'T..."
"STAY AWAY FROM THEM."
"YOU MAY END UP PAYING FOR IT WITH YOUR LIFE."
WHA...
?

WHO IS IT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF CLASS? LUNCH IS OVER.
OH, UM... NO
PHEW

SORRY, MAKITO DID I SCARE YOU?
OH..
PHEW

WHAT?
YOU KNOW THAT GIRL, LAST NAME OTSUKA, FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL?

I... OH... WAS LOOKING FOR MY BALL IN THE COURTYARD.
WELL, OKAY BUT HEY, SINCE I HAVE YOU HERE

AND SHE LOOKED SO HUMAN
SO CLOSE TO ME
WHY?

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
THEY'RE REAL!
THEY REALLY EXIST.

WHAT ARE THEY?
GULP

SISTER RED

シスター レッド

THE FOURTH NIGHT

WE SHOULD TREAT THEM AS TOYS...
GULP
WELL, THIS IS JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, BUT..
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
OTSUKA.
OH, YOU MEAN EMI?
I HEARD SHE WAS WALKING WITH A STUDENT FROM THIS SCHOOL
SO I WAS WONDERING IF YOU HAD HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT
FIVE DAYS AGO, SHE LEFT HOME AND DIDN'T RETURN.
.....
MANITO?
YOU KNOW...

I HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

SIGH...
UGH...
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.
YOU KNOW I'VE HATED TAKING ENTRANCE EXAMS EVER SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL... THAT'S ALL!
BUT HAVING TO GO TO A MORNING ASSEMBLY IS A REAL DRAG
"MISSION HIGH SCHOOL" HAS A NICE RING TO IT.
IT WAS LIKE THIS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL TOO.
SNK
AHAHAHA
PAT
BUT YOU ENDED UP STAYING HERE AGAIN...
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GO TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL TOO..
HHHOOO

SHOUKO MINOWA

GOOD MORNING, MAHITO.
NICE WEATHER, ISN'T IT?
IS THAT A FRIEND...?
...!
MY COUSIN/ SHE LIVES WITH ME.

SIGH...

I SEE
ERIKA...
CAN YOU GO HOME BY YOURSELF?
YES
BUT...
NOW!
STARTLE
THAT WAS HARSH.
IS IT OKAY TO TREAT HER LIKE THAT?

"THEY WERE LAST SEEN AROUND SUNSET, WALKING ALONG THE HIGHWAY"
"I HEARD SHE WAS WALKING WITH A GIRL FROM SCHOOL."
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
AND..
"I'M ALWAYS THERE AT NIGHT."
"THERE'S A CLUB ALONG THE HIGHWAY IT'S CALLED THE BASEMENT."
I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU.
OH, YOU MEAN EMI?
IT'S ABOUT A FRIEND OF MINE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL...

FHOOO
IT'S BEEN PRETTY LONELY THERE LATELY
YOU COME OVER TO THE CLUB TONIGHT
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU WERE GOING TO ASK.
HMMM
OKAY I'LL TELL YOU
BUT ONLY IF...

MAHITO!
UNTIL NOW, I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS YOU
EMI OTAUKA, RIGHT?
FROM THE GYMNASTICS TEAM?
THAT'S HER
SHE HASN'T BEEN HOME IN A FEW DAYS
AND YOU WONDERED IF I KNEW WHERE SHE WAS?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER
IF YOU DO, CAN YOU TELL ME? SHE'S MY FRIEND, AFTER ALL
SHE TALKED A LOT ABOUT A FRIEND OF HERS, WHOM SHE REALLY ADMIRED

WOW
CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S GONNA DO ALL THAT
WELL... IT'S NOT LIKE SHE SAID "NO" OR ANYTHING
SHE'S PROBABLY THE ONE WHO MADE ERIKA THIS STRANGE!
THUNK
IT'S SO DEPRESSING.
ANYWAY, HER COUSIN...
WHAT'S-HIS-NAME?
OH, YOU MEAN MANITO?
HAHAHA! YOU'RE SO MEAN!
SWISH
?
YEAH, SHE'S NEVER AROUND ANYMORE.
SO IT'S A LOT EASIER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ERIKA!

OH, ERIKA'S TAKING OUT THE TRASH?
HEAVY
THUD
AAH...
OKAY
JUST TAKE IT TO THE SUPPLY ROOM
AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, CAN YOU TAKE THIS TOO?
I FIND IT SUCH A HASSLE MYSELF.
YOU KNOW
DO YOU MIND TAKING THIS WITH YOU?
DUMP

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CREAK

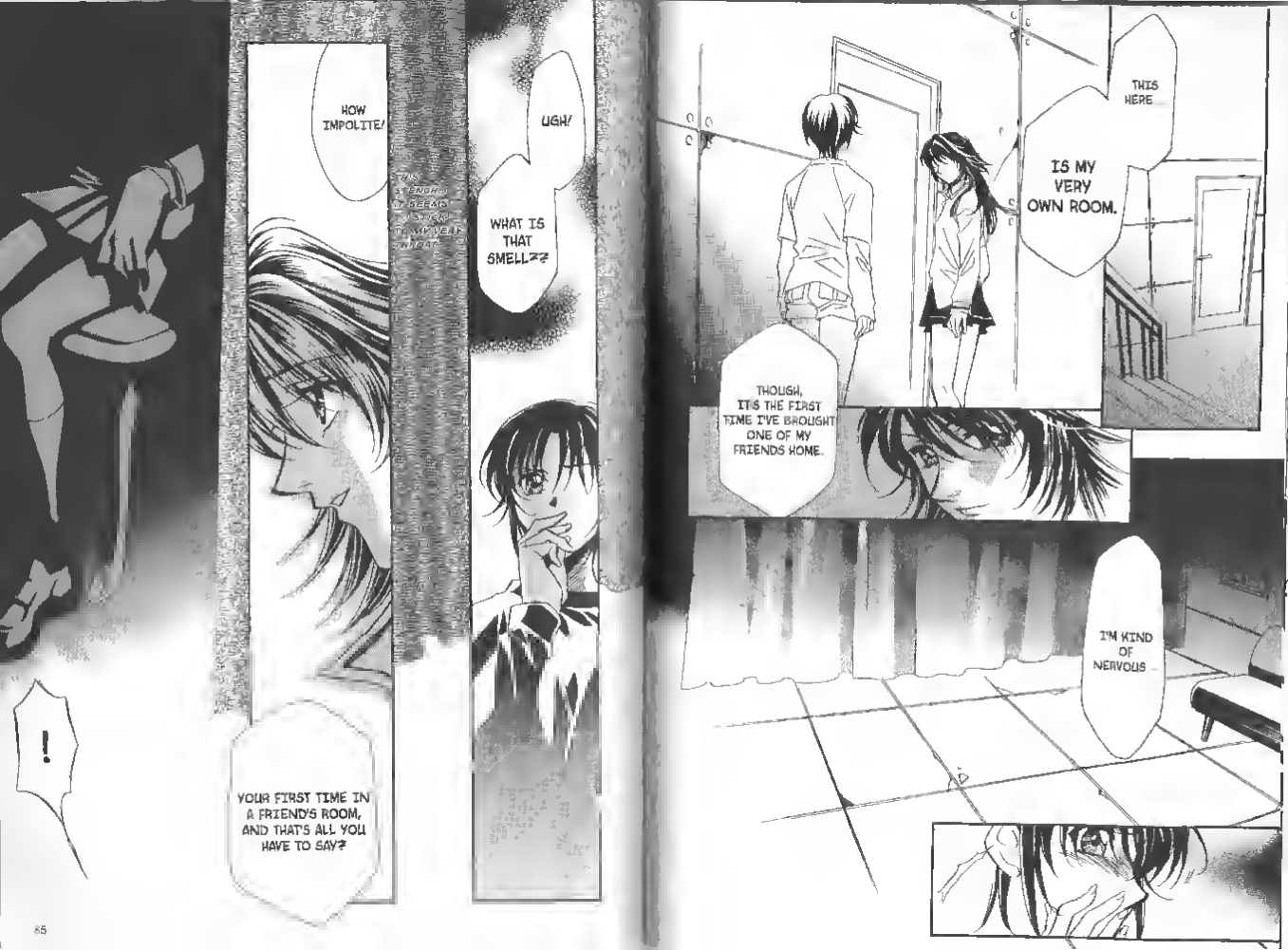
CAN I HELP YOU?
WHOO-WHOO
K-ACHUNK
K-ACHUNK
K-ACHUNK
BASEMENT

YOU'RE HERE TO TAKE EMI HOME.

AREN'T YOU?

DID SHE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ME?

NOTHING, REALLY.


!
YOUR FIRST TIME IN A FRIEND'S ROOM, AND THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?
HOW IMPOLITE!
THIS STENCH! IT SEEMS STUCK TO MY VERY FLESH!
UGH!
WHAT IS THAT SMELL??
THOUGH, IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BROUGHT ONE OF MY FRIENDS HOME.
THIS HERE IS MY VERY OWN ROOM.
I'M KIND OF NERVOUS...

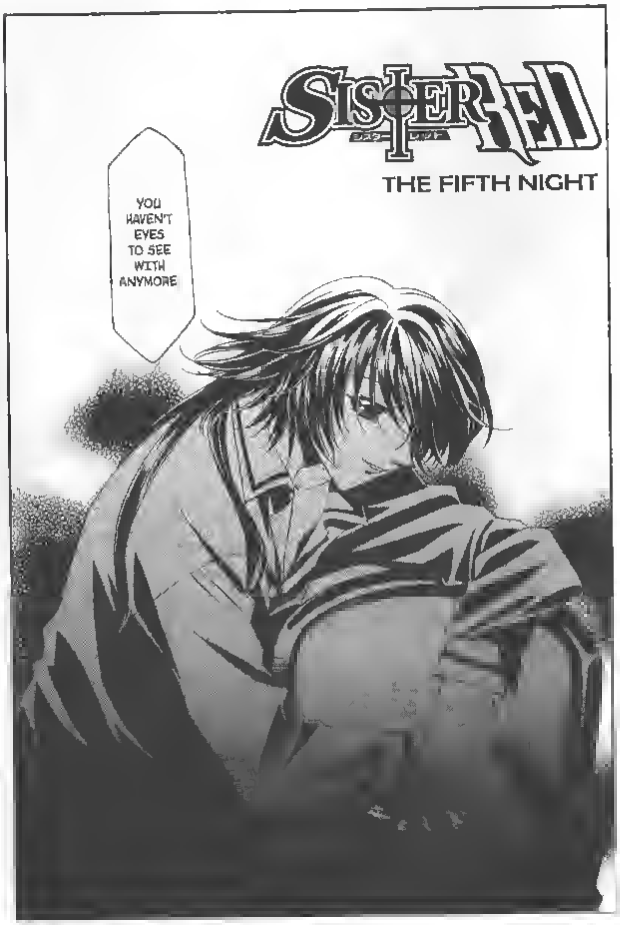
SHHIF
OH...
STOMP
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU CAME.
SORRY THE ROOM'S SUCH A MESS...
EMI!

ARE YOU IN A BAD MOOD OR SOMETHING?
EMI?
.....
TURN ON THE LIGHT.
ARE YOU THERE?

I KNOW YOU CAN ALREADY SEE PERFECTLY WELL.
WHY?

SNIFF
ARE YOU OKAY?
SNIFF
SNIFF
OH...
I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D REACT SO POORLY—
CRIK CRIK CRIK
UGH!
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH

I WAS WORRIED, HOW AM I GOING TO CLEAN THIS UP?


SISTERED
THE FIFTH NIGHT
YOU HAVEN'T EYES TO SEE WITH ANYMORE

OH, I SEE
POOR EMI.
AREN'T YOU GLAD? YOUR KIND FRIEND HAS COME TO TAKE YOU HOME
EMI...
STEP
THIS IS...
OF COURSE, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW SHE'S HERE ..

WE MEDIANS...
IT WAS JUST A HUMAN
CAN RIGHTFULLY DECIDE WHETHER A HUMAN SHOULD LIVE OR DIE...
OH MY, WHAT ARE YOU ALL UPSET ABOUT?
YOU... YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
YOU'RE CRAZY!!
CLACK
WE'RE THEIR MASTERS...
AND WE BEAR THE MARK TO PROVE IT.

.....
SO...
GO AHEAD.
TOUCH
THUD
YOU... KILLED HER?
EMI...
I SUPPOSE
BUT SHE WAS ONLY A HUMAN, AFTER ALL.
KILL?

HAHAHA-HAHA!
HOW FRIGHTENING.
YOU'RE DIRECTING YOUR ANGER TOWARDS ME?
WHAT UNFORTUNATE LUCK.
SHE WASN'T PURE.
BECAUSE I BROKE YOUR FRIEND?
IF SHE WERE I WOULD HAVE LEFT NOTHING OF HER.
SHE WAS HARDLY A GOOD GIRL ANYWAY.
IT'S SO STRANGE.
HOW COULD HER BLOOD HAVE BEEN SO FILTHY?
SHE STUDIED THE BIBLE AND SANG HYMNS EVERYDAY
MASTERS?
SO THAT'S WHAT MEDIANS ARE?
MEDIANS
YOU'RE SAYING THAT THIS CRUELTY KILLING SOMEONE...
IS NO BIG DEAL?
DIZZY
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THIS...
IS WHAT MEDIANS ARE ALL ABOUT?!
NOD
CLENCH

SH...
EEEEEEE
!?
THUD
SWHAP!

TAP
YOU'RE ONE OF US. YOU SHOULD KNOW...
THAT THE BLOOD AND FLESH OF A NON-VIRGIN.
IS FOUL TO THE TASTE
SPARK
KA-BOOM
.....!

I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOU GETTING IN MY WAY
GROW GROW GROW
BITE
GNASH
GNASH
ROAR

I SEE.
SO, THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL.
THUMP
WHAT?
I CAN'T HEAR... EVERYTHING'S IN A HAZE..
THAT'S TOO BAD
I THOUGHT WE COULD BE FRIENDS.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
SO, IF WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS, I MIGHT AS WELL GET RID OF YOU NOW.
THAT WAY.
DID I DO THAT?
PACHIN

AAAGH!
WHOOSH!!
I SE
NOW, REST HERE ..
FOR A BIT.
BUT WORRY NOT...
YOUR BODY HAS BEEN TORN...
BE PATIENT AND IT WILL REGENERATE.
100
HMM...
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT SOMEONE SINCE THIS MORNING...
REGENERATE ...?
"ERIKA."
ERIKA?
SHUDDER
IS VERY...
I'M SURE HER BLOOD...
VERY, SWEET.
NO...
101

THE AURA OF BLACK FLAME...
SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME.
THOSE DISGUSTING CLAWS GROWING FROM YOUR HANDS..
..THEN ERIKA!
....!
I KNOW HOW TO USE IT... YOU DON'T!
BLOCK
KILL
CHOMP
WHOOSH

HAHA!
HAHAHAHA! NOW, I'VE MADE YOU REALLY MAD!
UUAAAAAA RRRGGHH!
ROAR
BUT I KNOW SOMETHING YOU DON'T
IF I DON'T, SHE'LL...
KRIE
IF I DON'T KILL HER
PACHIN
IF I DON'T DO IT NOW....
PACHIN

AGH!
YANK
CHOP!
ALICE!
SNAP
AH...
WHAT?

SWING
OUR ENEMY...
THE TRAITOR, ALICE!!
MAHITO,
ALICE!
FOLLOW MY LEAD
TO TAKE THEM DOWN.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY...
SWOOSH!
YOU HAVE TO BURN THEM...
FLICK
INCINERATE EVERY LAST DROP OF THEIR BLOOD.
DRIP
THOSE LIKE HER CAN ONLY BE DESTROYED ONE WAY.
ALICE!
WHY...?
SLICE
HA
HAHA!
I RECOGNIZE YOUR FACE.
ALICE
I PRESUME.
SUSH
TO THINK THAT ALICE WAS BEHIND YOU ALL ALONG.
MAHITO,
AH, NOW I SEE.

AA..A..
KYAAAAA AAAAH!
YOU CALL YOURSELF A "MEDIAN"?
CRACKLE
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
ROAR
ONES LIKE YOU, WITH ONLY THREE MARKS ON THEIR BODIES.
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?

ROAR
THE "FLAME OF SCARLET"
SHRWWW

SMELLS BAD? THAT'S THE SMELL OF DEATH, RIGHT?
IT SURE SMELLS BAD
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
MEH
THE SMELL OF DEATH SHOULD BE LIKE A PERFUME TO US BY NOW.
WE'RE SO USED TO IT.
SISTER RED
THE SIXTH NIGHT

FLASH
ARE NOTHING MORE THAN TRASH
GULP
UGH..
DUST TO DUST...

AH...
OKAY, WE CAN DO THAT
LET'S SET OFF A BOMB OR SOMETHING... LET IT GO OUT WITH A BANG.
FLICK
LET'S DO IT
SHAKE SHUFFLE
WHY DON'T YOU CLEAN THIS UP, TOO?
OH YEAH, I FORGOT.
HOW... LAME.
BUT, WE CAN'T DO IT NOW... THERE'S PREPARATIONS WE NEED TO CONSIDER.

WHAT HAPPENED?
WHY DID IT HAVE TO COME TO THIS...?
VIOLA!
SHE'S IN THE BASEMENT.
!
SHOUKO?
WHAT? WHY?
IT'S OF NO USE TO US ANYMORE...
THIS BUILDING...
BURN IT TO THE GROUND.

THAT'S WHY I WARNED YOU...
Swish
.....
TO AVOID OTHER MEDIA IS.
SIGH...

ALIVE? I KNOW. BUT IT'S NO USE. LOOK AT WHAT'S LEFT
TAP
B...BUT VIOLA/ SHE'S..!
I DON'T THINK SHE CAN BE REVIVED AT THIS POINT
SHE WAS COMPLETELY INCINERATED.
THIS IS STARTING TO GET INTERESTING.
HMM...
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON CAPABLE OF DOING THIS
IT'S IRRELEVANT ANYWAY, AS LONG AS WE COLLECT ALL THE BODIES.
.....
HURRY UP LET'S GET THIS GOING...
MY BROTHERS

WHAT DO YOU MEAN..?
SNIFF
MY BROTHER IS THE TRAITOR.
I'M NOT LIKE HER.
SHE WAS A CREATURE MADE BY MY BROTHER AND HIS FOLLOWERS.
THE "FALSE ONES" REBELLED AGAINST THOSE WHO CREATED THEM..
YOU SEE, HE LOST HIMSELF IN SEARCHING FOR "ETERNITY"...
HE FORGOT WHO HE REALLY WAS

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY.
JUST TEARING SOMEONE APART LIKE THAT..
JUST
NO REGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE..
IT'S JUST..
SOB
YOU'RE JUST LIKE HER, RIGHT?
LIKE SHOUKO ..
YOU'RE WRONG.
BANG
AARGH... THAT'S ENOUGH!
I.., I CAN'T STOP SHAKING..,

ALICE HAS BEEN SIGHTED
.....

SIGH---
SO, WE WILL FINALLY REUNITE.
I'M COMING BABY. JUST WAIT FOR ME.

YES ..
WE'RE SURE THIS TIME.
SHE INCINERATED OUR BELOVED DOLL TO A CRISP IN A FURIOUS RAGE.

ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH, VIOLA LEE SENT NEWS.. FROM JAPAN

VIOLA
DO YOU THINK THAT WE CAN REALLY TRUST THAT WOMAN? I CAN NEVER SEEM TO TELL WHAT SHE'S REALLY THINKING

YURI...

ARE YOU GOING OUT?
OH... JILL.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH ME?
GREAT TIMING

WE STILL HAVE OUR SOULS AND OUR MEMORIES...
BUT IN FACT, THEY ARE NOT
YOU COULD SAY THAT THE CREATURES MY BROTHER MADE WERE MEDIANS...
AND NOTHING CAN CHANGE THAT, NO MATTER WHAT
MEMORIES FROM OUR LIVES AS HUMANS. THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU AND I DIFFERENT.

THE MEDIANS ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTS
ALICE
AND THE SECOND GENERATION MEDIANS, THOSE WHO DIED AS HUMANS AND WERE RESURRECTED WITH THE BLOOD OF THE TRUE ONES
THE "PUREBLOODS", ALSO KNOWN AS THE "TRUE ONES", OR FIRST GENERATION MEDIANS...
THE SAME AS YOU.
WE WERE ONCE HUMAN, BUT WE WERE REBORN AS MEDIANS.
MY BROTHER AND I BELONG TO THE SECOND GROUP.

THE TRUE ONES ARE IMMORTAL...
BUT...
TO REALLY UNDERSTAND I NEED TO KNOW MORE.
TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR KIND...
DON'T DODGE THE QUESTION!
THEY CANNOT REPRODUCE. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS IMMORTALITY IS LONELINESS.

BUT SOME SOUGHT TO DEFY THAT LONELINESS AND BEGAN TO RESURRECT THOSE WHO HAD RECENTLY DIED
THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE FAMILIES.
I DON'T KNOW.
WHETHER IT'S SOME KIND OF BLESSING, OR A CURSE.
SO, HOW IS IT THEY CAME TO EXIST THEN? IT'S UNNATURAL
REPRODUCE? YOU MEAN THEY CAN'T HAVE CHILDREN?

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK OF ME...
AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER THIS ONE THING...

ALICE
ARE YOU CRYING?
AND WHY?
IF IT LOOKS LIKE IT,
THEN MAYBE I AM

I UNDERSTAND.
WE WILL NEVER HARM A HUMAN BEING.
AS LONG AS WE HAVE OUR MEMORY OF BEING HUMAN...
FOR US

IT'S IN HERE.
MY BROTHER DEDICATED HIS DAYS TO SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO EXTEND OUR "LIVES."
WHAT LIES IN OUR CHESTS.
IN ME, AND IN YOU
"SCARLET'S HEART."
AND HE FOUND THE ANSWER
BREEZE
ALL HE NEEDS NOW IS IMMORTALITY AND THE HEART IS THE KEY.
HE HAS GAINED POWER AND SKILL... ENOUGH TO WIPE OUT ALL OF OUR MASTERS-- THE TRUE ONES.
MY BROTHER YURI MUST NEVER POSSESS IT.

AND ME...
SO, YOU...
WE'RE IMMORTAL?
THAT'S US, THEIR CHILDREN... THE "FALSE ONES."
NO...
WE WILL NOT LIVE FOREVER.
THAT IS RESERVED ONLY FOR THE TRUE ONES
"ALICE."
THAT'S HOW ALL THIS STARTED
MY BROTHER KNEW THAT
"THAT WE WHO WERE GIVEN LIFE FROM DEATH, WILL INEVITABLY DIE AGAIN?"
"CAN'T YOU SEE THE IRONY?"

AND I BELIEVE YOU'LL PROTECT HER HEART UNTIL THE VERY END
SCARLET APPROVED OF YOU
!
RIP
THE MARK OF SCARLET
THE "SWORD OF FLAME."
WHAT'S THIS MARK?
HUH? THERE'S A SCAR...

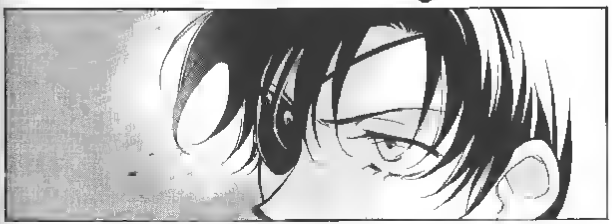
NOTHING.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SO...
INSURANCE... IF SOMETHING SHOULD EVER HAPPEN TO ME
AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, YOU ARE JUST A CONTAINER
THAT'S NOT TRUE
YOU'RE JUST USING ME...
SO THAT'S ALL IT'S ABOUT?

ALICE.
I WONDER IF YOU REALIZE...
YOUR BROTHER IS COMING FOR YOU.
THE SEVENTH NIGHT

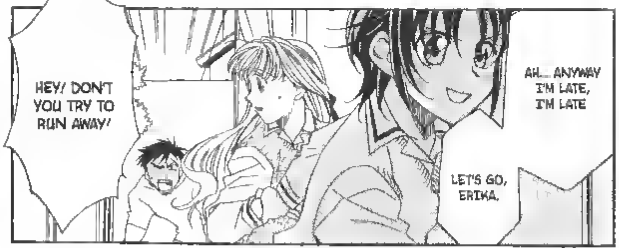
AND THOUGH I AM UNCERTAIN IF THE BOND IS COMPLETE OR NOT.
.. I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BET EVERYTHING ON YOU.
MAHITO, IT WILL BE TOO DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS FOR YOU.
RUN AWAY NOW
YURI
OUR FRIENDS... WILL BE HERE SOON.

WHY NOT COME OUT AND DISCUSS THIS WITH ME LIKE PROPER ADULTS.
IT IS RIDICULOUS TO RESIST
YOU MUST BE CAPTURED AND BROUGHT BEFORE YURI.
WE HAVE TO CATCH YOU.
BUT ALICE
I'M SO TIRED OF USELESS PAWNS
E. FOUR
THEY GOT FOUR OF US...
HOW MANY?
FIZZLE...
WE'RE ALL FRIENDS, RIGHT?
WE CAN FORGIVE YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE
CLACK
VIOLA.
HOW ABOUT IT?
ALICE. YOU GET MORE BEAUTIFUL EACH TIME WE MEET
SNAP

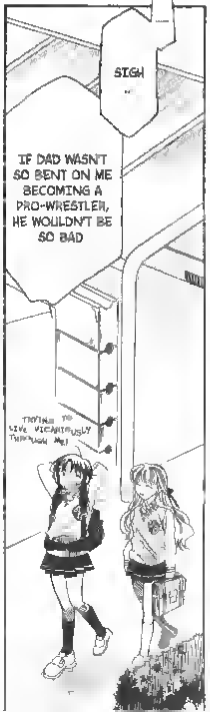
SISTER RED



THE SEVENTH NIGHT


HEY! DON'T YOU TRY TO RUN AWAY!
AH... ANYWAY I'M LATE, I'M LATE
LET'S GO, ERIKA.

NO WAY!
I THINK HE JUST WANTS TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU.
HE WOULDN'T TEACH ME MID-AIR DEATH TECHNIQUES JUST TO SPEND TIME WITH ME...
IF EVEN A LITTLE TIME!
HAHAHA

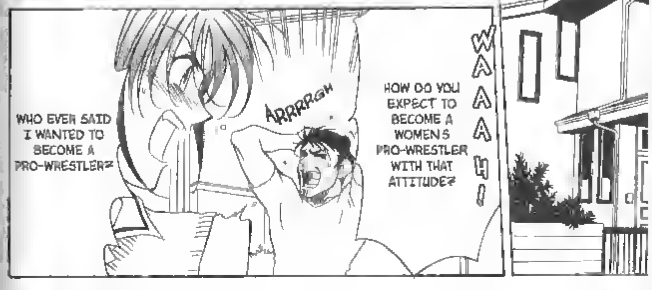

SIGH...
IF DAD WASN'T SO BENT ON ME BECOMING A PRO-WRESTLER, HE WOULDN'T BE SO BAD
I'M GOING TO LIVE VICARIOUSLY THROUGH ME!

EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL!
THEN...

NOTHING.
OH...
HMM?
IT JUST SEEMS THAT YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL.

CLAP
LET'S GO!

YOU'VE BEEN SKIPPING YOUR TRAINING LATELY, RIGHT? LET'S PRACTICE YOUR SPARRING, AT LEAST.
COME ON, MAHITO!
NO WAY!
CLAP
CLAP


WHO EVER SAID I WANTED TO BECOME A PRO-WRESTLER?
ARRRRGH
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO BECOME A WOMEN'S PRO-WRESTLER WITH THAT ATTITUDE?
WAAAH!

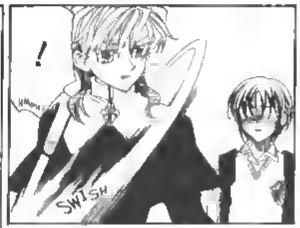
I WAS TRYING TO FORCE MYSELF INTO BELIEVING THAT IT WAS ALL A DREAM...
I'LL SEE YOU AFTER OUR FREE PERIOD
ANYWAY,
GRIP
BUT THE PROOF IS STILL RIGHT HERE
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN ALICE IN A FEW DAYS.
THAT MUST BE WHY...
CLACK
EVERYTHING IS SO CALM... ALMOST AS IF NOTHING EVER HAPPENED
GASP

DON'T WORRY!
.....
I'M SURE IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION!
?
TO NORMAL?
I WAS KIND OF WORRIED
YEAH...
YOU KNOW...
IT WAS KIND OF SCARY
YOU SEEMED LIKE YOU'VE BEEN ON EDGE LATELY
LIKE YOU WEREN'T YOURSELF
GEEZ, WHAT AM I SAYING?
YOU JUST SEEMED KIND OF ODD
I DON'T KNOW.
ERIKA...

TREMBLE
A MEDIAN?
THIS FEELS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN THE PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS
!
WHO...
WHO ARE YOU?
SHA
WH...
A SUDDEN FEELING OF APPREHENSION?

LET'S GO
BUT...
BUT LEO, SHE'S ..!

.....
NICOLE!


!
SWISH

A STRONG FORCE .
I CAN'T MOVE!
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN.
AND DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER...
THWP

NICOLE...
.....
BRUSH

LEAVE HER ALONE.
LEO

YOU!

ANGELYN...
OH,
I'M SORRY, I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION
ANYWAY
NICOLE, DO NOT WORRY YOURSELF WITH THAT GIRL WE MET EARLIER
CREAK
WHATEVER YOU SAID WENT IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER SORRY
THAT'S RIGHT!
SHE'S NOT OUR ENEMY

LAURA!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
HMM?
TAP TAP
WHAT'S UP? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST OR SOMETHING!
WHERE? I WAS JUST POKING AROUND!
I MEAN, IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN TO SCHOOL!
FLOP
.....
IF YOU'RE COMING WITH US YOU BETTER GET IT TOGETHER!
HA?

GOOD WORK.
YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST.
ALICE.
SHE IS..
THE ONE I SPLIT THE SCARLET HEART WITH.
YES.
IS SHE...
THE ONE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
WHO IS SHE?
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN...

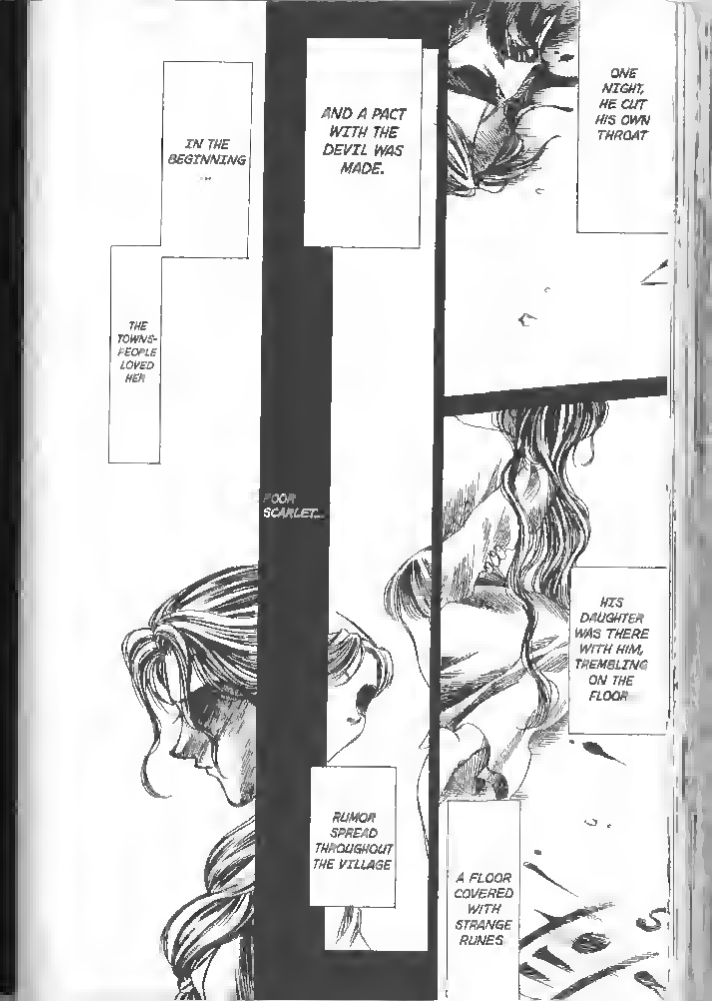
IN A SMALL VILLAGE, DEEP IN THE FOREST...
ALONE, ALL THESE YEARS.
THAT'S ENOUGH, NICOLE. SHE DID WELL.
YOU CAN AT LEAST GIVE HER A LITTLE RESPECT
IT MUST BE NICE...
TO BE ABLE TO SLEEP LIKE THAT.
WITHOUT HAVING TO THINK ABOUT THE WAR TO COME...
SHE LIVED...
THE EIGHTH NIGHT
IN THIS LIFE
AND IT WILL BE THE LAST REST YOU'LL TAKE...
TOPPLE

THE EIGHTH NIGHT

ALICE,
LET ME TELL YOU...
SO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED..
AN ANCIENT MEMORY
SCARLET.
THE DAUGHTER OF A NOBLEMAN...
THE DAUGHTER OF A GENTLEMAN...
THAT I CAN HARDLY REMEMBER IF IT REALLY HAPPENED OR NOT..

SHE HAD ONLY TURNED EIGHTEEN
IT IS SAID HE HAD GONE CHECK SPACING MAD.
ULTIMATELY, THE PAINTINGS COVERED THE WALLS OF THE ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD, AND AFTER A TIME, AT LAST HE MURMURED...
A PACT WAS MADE WITH THE DEVIL.
AND TRIED OBSCURE HERBS AND MEDICINES...
THE FATHER DABBLED IN BLACK MAGIC...
TO CAPTURE HIS DAUGHTER'S BEAUTY ETERNALLY.
UNTIL...
"AH, EVEN NOW MY DAUGHTER BEGINS TO GROW OLD."
BESET WITH THE DESIRE TO PRESERVE HER BEAUTY..
HER FATHER, WHO HAD LOST HIS WIFE VERY EARLY ON, WAS OBSESSIVELY FOND OF HIS DAUGHTER..
HE HIRED THE FINEST ARTISTS TO PAINT PORTRAITS OF HER
PAINTING AFTER PAINTING
WITH RAVEN HAIR SHINING BLUE AGAINST HER PEARLY WHITE SKIN..
SHE STOLE THE EYES OF ALL WHO GAZED UPON HER.

WHY?
BUT AS TIME PASSED THEY GREW WARY OF HER
"WHY DOES SHE NOT APPEAR TO AGE?"
"SHE'S A WITCH!"
TWENTY YEARS HAD PASSED, BUT SHE REMAINED YOUTHFUL AND BEAUTIFUL
"SHE'S A MONSTER SPAWNED FROM THE BLOOD OF HER FATHER!"
KILL THE WITCH!
IT WAS HER FATHER'S DEAL WITH THE DEVIL— A CONTRACT PAID WITH HIS SOUL, THAT SHE SHOULD NOT AGE
"SHE'S NOT THE SAME GIRL I ONCE KNEW."


IN THE BEGINNING ...
THE TOWNS-PEOPLE LOVED HER
AND A PACT WITH THE DEVIL WAS MADE.
ONE NIGHT, HE CUT HIS OWN THROAT
FLOOR SCARLET...
HIS DAUGHTER WAS THERE WITH HIM, TREMBLING ON THE FLOOR
RUMOR SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE
A FLOOR COVERED WITH STRANGE RUNES

WE CAN'T LET YURI HAVE IT
I'M SURE WE'VE MADE PLENTY OF MISTAKES..
THOSE WHO DO NOT PERISH SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO EXIST.
IT'S TIME,
ALICE.
CRACKLE
I HID HER HEART IN YOUR BODY
AFTER TWO NIGHTS HAD PASSED. ALL THAT REMAINED OF SCARLET WERE SMOLDERING EMBERS. BUT AMONG THESE REMAINS I FOUND SOMETHING ELSE. HER HEART.
MIRACULOUSLY, IT HAD REMAINED INTACT AND UNSCATHED BY THE PYRE, EXCEPT FOR THE "MARK OF THE FLAME", EMBLAZONED UPON ITS SIDE. STILL BEATING, I TOOK SCARLET'S HEART INTO MY HANDS
SHE GRIEVED MORE FOR THE CURSE OF HER IMMORTALITY THAN FOR HER OWN DESTRUCTION.
THE ASHES SCATTERED THROUGH THE AIR, AND FELL UPON THE TOWNSPEOPLE
AND BEFORE THEY KNEW IT..
THEY HAD BECOME IMMORTAL TOO
WE, THE TOWNSPEOPLE, ABANDONED OUR VILLAGE AND HID OUR EXISTENCE FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.
ULTIMATELY, IN OUR SECLUSION, WE HAD BECOME CREATURES OF THE NIGHT.
SHE WAS BURNED AT THE STAKE.
"I NEVER WANTED ETERNAL DEATH! I WANT AL ICE!"
"WHY?"

2
WHAT?
THERE'S A NEW ADMINISTRATOR!
I HEAR HE'S A REALLY GOOD LOOKING GUY!
HE USED TO BE THE HEAD OF A SCHOOL IN ENGLAND!
NO, NO, IT'S TRUE!
GEEZ, THAT'S ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT.
HE BROUGHT THREE FOREIGN STUDENTS WITH HIM!
ONE OF THEM IS IN OUR CLASS, AND SHE'S SO PRETTY!
SHE WAS HERE A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
MAYBE, SHE WENT HOME ALREADY...
BUT I...
EH? MARIO?
DING
DING
DING
HEY HEY!
DID YOU HEAR?

I'M SORRY.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST NOW, ALICE.
ONLY YOU...
I SEE...
SO WE FINALLY MEET...
THIS ROOM...
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE DARKNESS SOOTHES MY NERVES...
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, LEO
ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS GIVE THE HEART TO HIM

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ALICE?
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
WHEW! THAT SAVED ME A LOT OF WORK.
THIS SCHOOL IS SO BIG
!!
RATTLE
SHE'S WEARING THE SAME UNIFORM AS THE GIRL THIS MORNING.
F..FOR ME?
DON'T BE AFRAID
WE CAME HERE TO SET YOU FREE
OH,
I'M SORRY TO HAVE STARTLED YOU
ALICE IS AT OUR PLACE NOW. WILL YOU COME WITH ME?

CLINK
UGH!
SHE'S ALWAYS POPPING UP AT THE MOST INCONVENIENT TIMES...
ALICE
WHY DOESN'T SHE EVER COME WHEN I NEED HER?
SHE SEEMS SO COLD, THOUGH...
YOU'D KNOW, WOULDN'T YOU?
JUST WHO THOSE PEOPLE ARE.
ALICE

CREAK
WOW...
YOU SURE ARE GOOD AT GIVING COMMANDS.
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE COMING WITH US
YOU WILL RETURN YOUR HEART TO MASTER LEO

HOW IRRITATING.
WHO PICKED YOU TO DO THIS JOB?
W...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY SHOULD I JUST TRUST YOU SO EASILY? I'M NOT THAT DUMB.
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, THEN BRING ALICE HERE NOW!
SIGH

ALICE!
MAHITO..
I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAVE TO SEE ME LIKE THIS... I STILL HAVEN'T RECOVERED...
HOW CRUEL!
DID THEY HURT YOU?
HEY, DON'T BLAME US...
I WAS PURSUED BY YURI'S GANG...
USING MYSELF AS A DECOY, SO THEY WOULDN'T FIND OUT ABOUT YOU...
WELL, TO TELL THE TRUTH, SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO PROTECT THAT BLESSED HEART!
ANYWAY LET ME TELL YOU WHY YOU'RE HERE

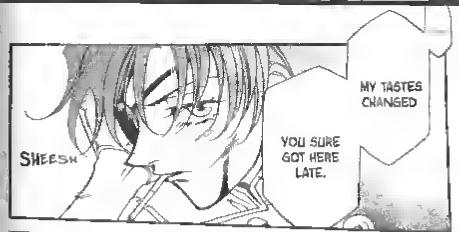
WELL, IT IS VERY NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU..
MAHITO TAKEDA.
MY NAME IS LEONARDO.
I'M SORRY TO HAVE CALLED ON YOU SO SUDDENLY,
BUT WE ARE IN QUITE A HURRY
WHERE IS ALICE?
OVER THERE.

PHEW
WELL, WELL...
IT LOOKS LIKE I SLEPT THROUGH THE WHOLE DAY

IT MEANS YOUR EXISTENCE WILL COME TO AN END
WE'RE TAKING THE SCARLET HEART
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
WE ONLY WANT ONE THING, SISTER MANITO...
WE NEED THE HEART THAT IS INSIDE BOTH YOU AND ALICE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
!?
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE
YES.

IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.
JUST LOOK
STEAM
BUBBL
GLOP

YOU CAN THINK WHATEVER YOU LIKE
BUT YOU'LL SEE WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN
YOU DON'T THINK SHE WAS JUST GOING EASY ON ALL OF YOU?
IS THAT SO?
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE NEGLECTING AITAKO!
NO WAY! YOU FOUGHT SCARLET?
SHE SHOULD'VE TURNED ALL OF THAT LITTLE DOLL SHOUKO INTO ASHES,
THE ONLY THING THAT CAN DESTROY THE CELLS OF A MEDIAN IS THE FLAME OF SCARLET...
BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
IT'S AS IF HER POWER HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF


SHEESH
YOU SURE GOT HERE LATE.
MY TASTES CHANGED

AND I HAD SOME EXTRA BAGGAGE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN
I FIGURED YOU COULD HANDLE IT.
WELL,

THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
HAVE YOU ALWAYS LIKED HARD BEDS?

JUST AS I EXPECTED...
I'VE TAKEN ON SCARLET BEFORE...
I'M NOT KIDDING.

I...
I'M GOING TO DIE?
ONCE YOU TAKE OUT THE HEART.
REMOVING THE HEART WILL CAUSE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO YOUR BODY
THAT'S RIGHT
MAYBE NOT RIGHT AWAY, BUT IT WILL KILL YOU.
NO WAY...
.....
ALICE
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS

SISTER BED

THE NINTH NIGHT

ANYWAY, DOES IT REALLY MATTER? YOU ARE SUPPOSE TO BE DEAD!
YOU WERE GIVEN SOME EXTRA DAYS TO LIVE NOW WE'RE JUST HELPING YOU RETURN TO YOUR DEATH!
WHAT WAS ONEK PECTED
WAS THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU HADN'T RECEIVED ANY BLOOD OF THE MEDIANS
DONG
DONG
WE NEED TO GET THE HEART BACK IN ONE PIECE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
THAT'S ENOUGH TALK.
SO WE CAN TAKE DOWN THOSE WHO STRAYED FROM THE TRUE PATH!
WHIP
YOU STILL KEPT YOUR IDENTITY AND MEMORIES YOUR HUMANITY...

ALICE!
ALICE DIDN'T SPLIT THE HEART WITH YOU BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO BRING SOME UNFORTUNATE SOUL BACK TO LIFE.
THERE'S NO USE ASKING NOW.
YOUR DEAD BODY PROVIDED AN IDEAL HIDING PLACE.
SHE JUST NEEDED SOME PLACE TO CONCEAL THE HEART..
YOU WERE ALWAYS JUST A TEMPORARY CONTAINER.

GET AWAY!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
THEN...
WE NEED TO TAKE THE LIFE-HEARTS FROM YOU BOTH AND PUT THEM TOGETHER.
GRRRR
THAT'S RIGHT.
IN ONE PIECE.
BOOM
!!
UAAGH!
FLAP
FLAP
WHAT IS SHE DOING?
!?

BLUFF....
YOU'RE LYING.
YOU KNOW THAT WON'T WORK.
BEFORE YOU CAN BURN THAT HEART...
I HAVE THE SPEED AND POWER OF SCARLET... AND THAT'S FASTER THAN ANYTHING
I'LL RUN YOU THROUGH RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES!
TRY ME!
BUT THIS WAY YOU'LL LOSE THE HEART! I HAVE NOTHING TO LOOSE!
I'LL DIE NO MATTER WHAT, RIGHT?
HA..
HAHAHA! ARE YOU THAT STUPID?
IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER
YOU CAN'T DO THAT WITHOUT THIS HALF!
YOU SAID YOU WANTED THE HEART WHOLE, RIGHT?
I'M CALLING YOUR BLUFF
UNWRAP
SHE HAS A GOOD POINT THERE, NICOLE
DUH!
YOU TWO, SHUT UP!
I'LL DESTROY THE HEART! I'LL BURN IT ALONG WITH MY OWN BODY IF I HAVE TO!

WHAT ABOUT YUKI AND HIS GANG?
WHO WOULD BE LEFT TO PUNISH THE SINNERS?
I JUST WANT...
YOU TO PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T TAKE MY LIFE!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT!
BECAUSE WE WON'T GET SCARLET BACK IF YOU LIVE.
THAT WON'T DO AT ALL.
IS THERE ANOTHER OPTION? SOMEONE ELSE WHO CAN DESTROY THEM?
THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH THEM IS TO INCINERATE THEM WITH SCARLET.
I CAN
... ...

I DON'T THINK WE HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE ANYMORE
THIS WON'T DO
TAP
LET'S ASK
WHAT ARE YOUR WISHES, SISTER MAHITO?
TAKE OUT
I WANT MY LIFE!
I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE DECIDING WHETHER I LIVE OR DIE!

FINE. HAVE IT YOUR WAY
DO YOU THINK SOMEONE AS HUMAN AS YOU CAN DO THIS?
I JUST WANT TO LIVE.
I WOULD DO ANY-THING FOR THAT
BUT THE PRICE TO KEEP YOUR LIFE WILL BE HIGH INDEED
To be continued...

WHAT DID SHE SAY?
I HAVE SCARLET!
IF YOU HAVE SCARLET, YOU CAN FIGHT YURI, RIGHT?
I CAN DO IT!
I WON'T LET YOU!
I WON'T LET YOU THROW OURS LIVES AWAY LIKE THIS, ALICE!
AND ALICE DOES TOO!
THAT'S WHY I HATE HUMANS
WOW SHE'S FULL OF HERSELF

THE THINGS WHICH INTERRUPTED ME WHILE WRITING THIS BOOK.
-HAVING TO TAKE MY CAR IN FOR INSPECTIONS.
-ANNOYING CALLS FROM REAL-ESTATE AGENTS. THEY CALLED ME TWO TIMES!!
-SLEEPINESS.

HEY, NICE TO MEET YOU! OR SHOULD I SAY, IT'S BEEN A WHILE? I'M SURE A LOT OF YOU (OR ALL OF YOU) ARE WONDERING WHY THE CHANGE FROM MY USUAL STYLE? FOR THIS STORY I TURNED TO A KIND OF A STORYTELLING MANGA TECHNIQUE. IT'S STILL ONLY THE FIRST VOLUME! (SIGH) THIS MANGA IS A FIRST FOR ME IN MANY WAYS, SO I WAS KIND OF NERVOUS WRITING IT. PHEW. WELL, ANYWAY, JUST GO AHEAD AND GIVE IT A READ (I MEAN, REALLY READ IT!). AND I'M SURE YOU'LL KNOW HOW I FEEL. I KNOW YOU WILL. GEEZ, I CAN'T EVEN WRITE THESE COMMENTS LATELY... ACTUALLY, I HAD REALLY WANTED TO WRITE SOMETHING REALLY COOL HERE, BUT I GUESS I JUST WASN'T PREPARED ENOUGH. I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME! ANYWAY, I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING THROUGH A KIND OF CHANGE...

HOPEFULLY FOR THE GOOD! I DON'T KNOW, THOUGH. I HAD TO WORK HARD TO GET THIS BOOK OUT TO YOU GUYS. SO, I'M GOING TO POUR MY HEART INTO IT AND DO MY BEST UNTIL THE VERY END! AS YOU KNOW, IT'S REALLY TIRING HAVING TO DRAW ALL THOSE GIRLS! NEXT TIME, I'LL BE INTRODUCING SOME MALE MAIN CHARACTERS (FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIS MANGA!) SO SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME!

SHIZURU HAYASHIYA ZOOI MY ASSISTANT WAS: REN MAKISE

(SORRY FOR MAKING YOU SUFFER THROUGH THIS, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!) AND TO MY ADVISOR-THANKS FOR PUTTING UP WITH ME! I REALLY APPRECIATE IT!